

P.O. Box 521
EDGARD, LA 70049

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 7/26/2021
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Atoundra Pierre Lawson
Office: District Judge, 40th Judicial District Court, ES 2, Div. A
Parish: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Election Date: 11/3/2020
Level of Office: District

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: SUPP2020
Original Due Date: 2/18/2021
Date Filed: 6/14/2021
Activity Receipts: \$5,825.00 (candidate's own funds)
Expenditures: \$3,900.00
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$0

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$2,000
Days Late: 116
Late Fee Order Received: 5/24/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 6/14/2021
Waiver Request Received: 6/14/2021
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Candidate faxed in her waiver request and states that a lawsuit was filed challenging her qualifications five days after the end of qualifying on 7/29/20. She said she paused all campaign activity when the lawsuit was filed. She said all funds raised were directed to legal fees. She said she followed the rules and did what was asked and was promptly disqualified as a candidate. Her name did not appear on the ballot and was removed from the candidate list. She said her capacity as a candidate lasted less than two weeks. She said the painfully disappointing event of being disqualified left her with personal debt. She said she was not a candidate and did not acquire any contributions since August 2020.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No



June 14, 2021

Louisiana Board of Ethics
P. O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

**RE: Atoundra Pierre Lawson- Late fee assessment for the
November 3, 2020 Election Supplemental Campaign Finance
Disclosure Report**

Dear Ethics Board,

This correspondence is in order to request a waiver of the \$ 2,000 fine assessed due to a failure to submit a Supplemental campaign finance disclosure form during my capacity as a candidate for District Judge, 40th Judicial District Court, ES 2, Div A.

Initially, I qualified as a candidate for district court judge in July 2020. In full compliance with the rules of qualification as described in the Louisiana revised statutes, I moved to Louisiana over one year prior to the date of election. Additionally, as required, all taxes were filed prior to qualifying. Despite this, a lawsuit was filed challenging my qualifications five days after the end of qualifying on July 29, 2020. At the point the lawsuit was filed against me, all campaign activities were paused.

All funds previously raised were directed to legal fees to support my defense. Legal fees grew beyond funds raised but litigation continued. After the lower court ruled that I had properly qualified, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the lower court. Two writs were taken to the Louisiana Supreme Court with writs denied both times.

I followed all the rules, did what was asked and was promptly disqualified as a candidate. My name did not appear on the ballot and was removed from the list of qualified candidates with the Louisiana Secretary of State. As such, my "capacity as a candidate" lasted less than two weeks. For all intent and purposes, I was not a candidate at all. The race continued, unopposed, with the only "qualified" candidate taking the seat without an election.

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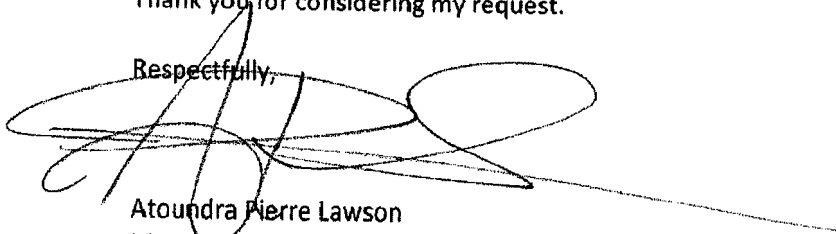


I contacted the Ethics Board to advise that the online web reporting service did not have a means for reporting that I was no longer a candidate. Because I was not a candidate, there was nothing more to report. No activities took place, no funds were raised and no campaign efforts were made. Again, after attempting to complete the online report using the options available, I thought my obligation was fulfilled because I was not a candidate.

This painfully disappointing event left me with personal debt which was previously reported. I was disqualified as a candidate and have attached the final writ filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court (because it sheds light on some of the conflicts in interpreting campaign laws throughout state circuit courts). I am asking the Board to waive all or part of the fine as I was not a candidate for the duration of the election. Reports reflecting the few days of my candidacy- prior to my disqualification- were submitted timely. At the time of the submission deadline for filing a Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report, I was not a candidate and had not acquired any additional campaign funding since August 2020.

Thank you for considering my request.

Respectfully,



Atoundra Pierre Lawson
LSBA #26466

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